

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, and 17 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Please note that Applicant has amended the claims for proper antecedent basis, and Applicant thanks the Examiner for the suggestions in the office action related to antecedent basis.

The Examiner rejected the claims under § 102 for anticipation and under § 103 for obviousness. In view of the prior art, however, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner has misunderstood or misapplied the claims. Peterson et al. discloses a shock application circuit 46 that is positioned within a control unit 32 or receiver/stimulus unit 32. (See Peterson et al., Paragraph 19) Peterson et al. further discloses that the electrodes 48 are coupled to the shock application circuit 46. (See Peterson et al., Paragraph 19). Therefore, since the shock application circuit 46 is part of the receiver/stimulus control unit 32, the electrodes 48 are essentially coupled to the receiver/stimulus control unit 32. Peterson et al. further discloses even more directly that "the electrodes 48 include conductive posts that protrude from the enclosure 32." (See Peterson et al., Paragraph 23; see also Paragraph 25)

Moreover, leads 143 extend from a battery recess 139, 141 inward to a central terminal region 145 for connection to the control unit. Claim 1 requires that the lead have one end in electrical engagement with a terminal that receives a control unit, and another end terminating in a receptacle for receiving an electrode. Electrodes 148 of Patterson screw directly into the control unit and do not engage the lead in wiring recess at all. Rather, electrodes 148 pass through hole 153, 155 into engagement with the receptacles on the control unit 132.

As such, the claims require a structure quite different from Peterson et al., and therefore the claims are not anticipated nor are they obvious in view of the prior art. The claims require that the band have an inner and outer layer within which an electrically conductive lead extends therebetween. The lead extends between the inner and outer layers, starting at the control unit, and extending along the band until the lead reaches the electrode. Claims 9 and 17 even require that the leads extend between the layers in opposite directions along the band and extend parallel to the length of the band itself, starting at the control unit, and extending along the band until the leads reach the electrodes. To be sure, the requirements of the claims are not disclosed in Peterson et al., and Peterson et al. does not even remotely suggest modifying Peterson et al. in such a manner as required by the claims.

Nevertheless, to make certain there is absolutely no doubt that the claims are in condition for allowance, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the lead terminates in an electrode end that is spaced along the band circumferentially from one of the electrical terminals. Without a doubt, no such limitation is disclosed or even remotely suggested in Peterson et al. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to the claims leaves no doubt that the claims overcome the Peterson et al. reference.

Similarly, to make certain there is absolutely no doubt that the claims are in condition for allowance, claims 9 and 17 have been amended to clarify that the electrodes or electrode pins are positioned circumferentially along the band from the control unit. Without a doubt, no such limitation is disclosed or even remotely suggested in Peterson et al. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to the claims leaves no doubt that the claims overcome the Peterson et al. reference.

In commenting upon the references and in order to facilitate a better understanding of the differences that are expressed in the claims, certain details of distinction between the references and the present invention have been mentioned, even though such differences do not appear in all of the claims. It is not intended by mentioning any such unclaimed distinctions to create any implied limitations in the claims. Not all of the distinctions between the prior art and Applicant's present invention have been made by Applicant. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant reserves the right to submit additional evidence showing the distinctions between Applicant's invention to be unobvious in view of the prior art.

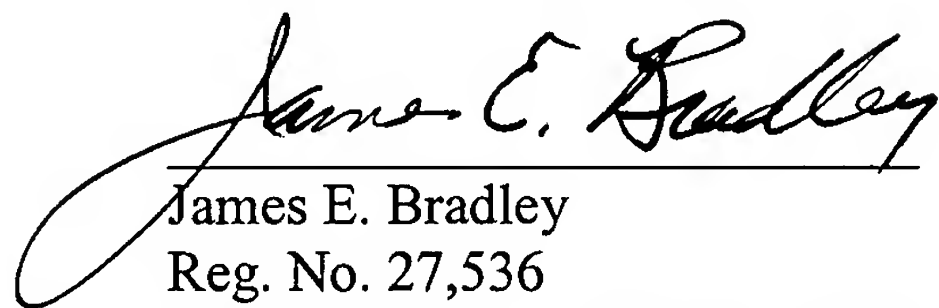
The foregoing remarks are intended to assist the Examiner in re-examining the application and in the course of explanation may employ shortened or more specific or variant descriptions of some of the claim language. Such descriptions are not intended to limit the scope of the claims; the actual claim language should be considered in each case. Furthermore, the remarks are not to be considered to be exhaustive of the facets of the invention, which render it patentable, being only examples of certain advantageous features and differences that Applicant's attorney chooses to mention at this time.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

May 17, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James E. Bradley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

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